



*The First Congregational Church  
of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

*March 2, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.*

Children are invited to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. returning to worship for communion. Nursery care is available during worship; please ask an usher. All prayers to be lifted today must be submitted in writing, given to a deacon before worship or no later than the end of the opening hymn.

GATHERING MUSIC

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

INTROIT

*O Nata Lux de lumine*, Thomas Tallis

Choir

*O Light of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world.*

*With loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be members of thy blessed body.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from the Iona Community

Drea Pecor

One: Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged;

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: In the private house, in the public place, in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love;

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

continued

One: That the kingdom might come, that the world would believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

One: Within us, without us, behind us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 9:28-36 *The Transfiguration* see pew Bible, page 53  
David Anderegg

\*HYMN *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair* vss. 1, 2, & 4 See page 5

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION written by Nancy J Gary Cilley

One: God of rainbows and ice patches,  
Lover of snowshowers and clear blue skies,

**All: we confess to you and to one another  
the many ways we fail to live the lives you want for us.**

One: We make ourselves busy with many things,

**All: and neglect to listen to your voice.**

One: All too often we see the worst in the world around us,

**All: and look past your signs of hope.**

One: We are quick to voice our dissent with one another,

**All: and refuse to see your face in the persons with whom we disagree.**

One: We focus on our own hurts, anger, and disappointments,

**All: and close our hearts to your transforming grace.**

One: O Holy Light of the world, forgive us.

**All: Open our eyes to your endless possibilities.**

**Give us courage to listen for your call to us.**

**Take our hearts of stone,**

**and make them new again with your holy love. Amen.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE *In the Morning When I Rise* vss. 1 & 2 See page 6

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME OF SILENCE

SHARING OF PRAYERS / PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE      *Danish Amen*

REFLECTION              *Lingering*                                      Pastor Brent

\*COMMUNION HYMN    *Now to Your Table Spread*              See pew hymnal #515

INVITATION TO THE TABLE                                      Pastor Brent

BLESSING THE FEAST

*We will be using the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION    *Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Congregation & Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING    Sung Lord's Prayer, Mark Miller    see page 7

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*We invite you to support our neighbors in need. This month we are supporting the church's Pop-Up Pantry. Baskets are available at the doors for contributions.*

SCRIPTURE READING    Luke 9:37-45                                      Helen McCormick

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

REFLECTION

*Resuming*

Pastor Brent

CALL TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, by Gilbert M. Martin      Choir

\*DOXOLOGY

*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

\*INVITATIONS

\*HYMN

*O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free* to Deo Gracias

<b>1. O Love, how vast, how flowing free, O Love how filled with ecstasy, That God a human form should take, And mortal be for mortals' sake.</b>	<b>2. Not as an angel visiting, Nor form celestial orbiting, But born in flesh God chose to be, Robed in our own humanity.</b>
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\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

*Ach, Gott, von Himmel sieh darein*, Pachelbel

## **Youth Group**

A reminder: this afternoon, at 5:00pm, parents and youth are invited to a meal, a meeting or two, and game time. Following a yummy dinner in the JE Room we will break into two groups. The youth will stay with Pastor Brent while the parents will chat with Elisabeth and Jeremy. We'll be talking about some exciting new opportunities for our youth including Membership and a new Mentoring program. Afterwards, we will come back together for a fun group activity, some dessert, and a new great game (Six Second Scribbles)! We'll wrap up by 7:00pm. Don't worry if you haven't sent a RSVP—just come on over.

Verses  
1, 2, & 4

184

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Luke 9:28-36; Matt. 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7

Latin, "Sarum Breviary," 1495  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair of glo - ry  
 2 From age to age the tale de - clare, how with the  
 3 The law and proph - ets there have place, two cho - sen  
 4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to  
 5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

that the church shall share, Which Christ up - on the  
 three dis - ci - ples there, Where Mo - ses and E -  
 wit - ness - es of grace; The voice of God out  
 man - i - fest to - day What glo - ry shall be  
 vi - sion's mys - ter - y, For which in joy - ful

moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun, Christ glows!  
 li - jah meet, they with the Christ God's fu - ture greet.  
 from the cloud pro - claims the Hu - man One a - loud.  
 theirs be - yond, who live with - in God's lov - ing bond.  
 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

This tune was composed in honor of the defeat of France at Agincourt by England under Henry V. The words, "Deo gracias . . ." were added in honor of the English king's wish that the glory for the victory be given to God.

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.  
"The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415  
For other harmonizations, see 209, 259

Verses  
1 & 2

# In the Morning When I Rise

(Give Me Jesus)

420

*Unison*

1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I  
2. At mid-night when I cry, at mid-night when I  
3. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to  
4. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I

rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
cry, at mid-night when I cry, give me Je - sus.  
die, oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus;

you can have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

WORDS: African-American spiritual  
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. L. L. Fleming, 1973

The last stanza, although the same as the first, takes on the meaning of resurrection when sung after the pain and death in stanzas two and three.

GIVE ME JESUS  
lrr. w. refrain

Arr. © 1973 Augsburg Publishing House,  
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*Hymns of Truth & Light (1998)*

# Sung Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

*mp*  
Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your  
reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

*slower*  
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

*mf*  
In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the  
po- wer, and the glo- ry, for - e - ver. Our God, in  
*f* *mp*  
hea- ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

## **Music Notes**, Tracy Wilson, Minister of Music pro tem

Today, the choir will speak for the disciples to tell the story of the Transfiguration. *O Nata Lux de lumine* by Thomas Tallis translates “O Light born of Light” and we open the service on the mountain with Jesus.

Our offertory anthem sets our faces and feet towards Lent, with one of my favorites: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* by Gilbert Martin. This anthem was given to the church and our choir by Bill and Marjory Fuller. The Fullers became dear friends and very active in our church in every way possible when they joined in the early 1990s, from singing in the choir to conducting the Festival Chorus and serving on church committees until their departure to Albany in 2012, where Bill passed shortly after. Marj passed in 2019. This was one of their favorite anthems, and we sang it for them at both of their funerals.

**Thank you** to all who helped with today’s service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, Helen McCormick, and Drea Pecor; usher Susan Moor; fellowship Ted Randolph; greeter Marion Pomeroy; and storyteller Kim Ruffing. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream, and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery. Cathy Clark provided the flowers.

*Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation’s life in Christ.*

*As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah’s charge to “maintain justice and do what is right,” we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshiping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.*

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